THE FOURTH DAY.

Thursday, the 12th March, 1925.

The Assembly met again at 11-30. A. M. in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, the Dewan presiding.

30. Needs of the Kammala community.

MR. K. NARAYANAN ASARI (*Member, Nominated*) complained that the representation of the Kammala community in the Assembly was very inadequate and prayed that one member to be elected by the community and another to be nominated by the Government should annually be appointed to the Assembly. He added that he should be nominated to the next Legislative Council to represent his community. He ascribed the educational and economic backwardness of his community to its inadequate representation on popular bodies. The community was generally poor and the benefit of the half-fee concession should be extended to all Kammala pupils in schools. Finally, he urged the exemption of Kammala youths from the rule regarding general educational qualification prescribed for admission into the Carpentry School, Quilon, in view of the paucity of members of the community who had passed the prescribed examination. He also prayed for increasing the strength of the Carpentry School and advocated the opening of more institutions for similar training.

DEWAN : The member has urged that separate representation for his community should be provided for in the Legislative Council and this House. I find that the community numbers a little over a lakh and a half out of a total of over forty lakhs of the population of the State. It is not always possible to give separate representation to all communities, especially if the community is not numerically very strong. Attempts will be made to give them representation by means of nomination as often as possible.

In regard to school fees, the community is getting the half-fee concession in regard to English education. I believe that all boys of the community who are poor are receiving that help.

The member complained that no concessions whatever were available in the vernacular schools.

DEWAN : In regard to the vernacular schools, primary education is free ; and the fees levied in classes V, VI and VII are much smaller than those obtaining in English schools. Again there are many more vernacular schools than English schools and the boys need not leave their villages in order to attend vernacular schools. I therefore do not see my way to extending the fee concession to vernacular schools.

In regard to the Carpentry School, Quilon, we have been improving the carpentry side of it very much of late ; and we have spent over Rs. 10,000 in obtaining machinery specially adapted for the making of furniture. I am sorry to observe that the community is not keen in taking advantage of the institution. Only a few boys who live in and about Quilon have joined the institution. The rates of stipends have been enhanced recently to remove this defect.

The member pointed out that it was a great hardship that general educational qualification was being insisted on.

DEWAN : The committee has been empowered to exempt boys from educational qualification. Such a qualification is not insisted upon invariably. So, if you satisfy the Government that there is sufficient response in regard to that school, the Government will be glad to consider the question of extending industrial education further.

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